

(12) An explanation of [why some] *whether* Italian Americans were subjected to civil liberties infringements, as a result of Executive Order No. 9066, [while] *and if so, why* other Italian Americans were not.

(13) A review of the wartime restrictions on Italian Americans to determine how civil liberties can be better protected during national emergencies.

#### SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the story of the treatment of Italian Americans during World War II needs to be told in order to acknowledge that these events happened, to remember those whose lives were unjustly disrupted and whose freedoms were violated, to help repair the damage to the Italian American community, and to discourage the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties in the future;

(2) Federal agencies, including the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities, should support projects such as—

(A) conferences, seminars, and lectures to heighten awareness of this unfortunate chapter in our Nation's history;

(B) the refurbishment of and payment of all expenses associated with the traveling exhibit "Una Storia Segreta", exhibited at major cultural and educational institutions throughout the United States; and

(C) documentaries to allow this issue to be presented to the American public to raise its awareness;

(3) an independent, volunteer advisory committee should be established comprised of representatives of Italian American organizations, historians, and other interested individuals to assist in the compilation, research, and dissemination of information concerning the treatment of Italian Americans; and

(4) after completion of the report required by this Act, financial support should be provided for the education of the American public through the production of a documentary film suited for public broadcast.

#### [SEC. 5. FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.]

(5) The President [shall] *should*, on behalf of the United States Government, formally acknowledge that these events during World War II represented a fundamental injustice against Italian Americans.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act. While the American people generally know about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, they are largely unaware of the U.S. government's mistreatment of people of other ethnic backgrounds during this difficult time in our nation's history. I believe we need a complete and thorough review of our government's mistreatment of Americans during World War II.

Mr. President, S. 2442 is a worthy bill. I had some reservations about this bill because it is not as inclusive as it might have been. The U.S. should fully assess its treatment of all Americans of European descent during World War II, including Italian and German Americans, as well as European refugees fleeing persecution, to acknowledge those whose lives were unjustly disrupted and whose freedoms were violated and to discourage the future occurrence of similar injustices.

I recognize, however, that time is short in this session of Congress. So, I

will not object to H.R. 2442 going forward at this time. But I want my colleagues to know that by withholding an objection at this time, I am not abandoning my effort to make sure that the mistreatment of other Americans during World War II, including German Americans, and European refugees are also properly recognized and reviewed. I look forward to working with Senator HATCH and my colleagues on this issue next year.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Senator from Wisconsin for his comments. I appreciate the Senator's comments and plan to work with him next year to examine the experiences of others whose liberties may not have been respected by our government during World War II.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendments be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 2442), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

#### AMENDING THE HMONG VETERANS' NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5234, received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5234) to amend the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 to extend the applicability of that Act to certain former spouses of deceased Hmong veterans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues for their support for H.R. 5234, which I introduced in the Senate as S. 3060. I am so pleased that the Senate will pass this critical legislation. It will ensure that widows and widowers of Hmong veterans who died in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam are also covered by the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act. This critical change applies fairness to the law so that widows, like spouses of surviving veterans, will be able to take the United States citizenship test with a translator.

The United States owes a great debt to the widows of Hmong veterans. During the Vietnam War, in the covert operations in Laos, they sacrificed everything they had in service to this country. It is almost impossible to imagine the impact of the Vietnam War on the Hmong Community in South East Asia. Hmong soldiers died at ten times the rate of American soldiers in the Viet-

nam War. As many as 20,000 Hmong were killed serving our country. When adults were killed, children as young as twelve and thirteen rose up to take their place. When Hmong soldiers died, they left behind families with no means of support. They left their loved ones to fend for themselves in a hostile country.

Because of the covert nature of the United States Operations in Laos, the heroics and sacrifice of this community long went unrecognized. By facilitating the naturalization of Hmong widows, we offer small compensation, but tremendous thanks and honor to people who gave us their lives and livelihoods. Twenty five years later, we cannot give them back their loved ones, though their loved ones gave their lives for us. All we can do is we honor their service in a way that is long overdue and give them the tools to become citizens in the nation for which they heroically fought, and died.

No one in Congress understood better what we owe to the Hmong community than my old and dear friend, Congressman Bruce Vento. No one here did more for the Hmong people. He dedicated himself to ensure that Hmong and Lao veterans and their families received the honor and respect that was so long deserved and too long delayed. One of the many great legacies of his life will indeed be his work with the Hmong community in Minnesota. I wish to honor him today for that dedication and for that deep respect and compassion. But there is no tribute I can deliver that would bring him more greater pride than when 45,000 Hmong veterans, widows and spouses whom he was one of the first to recognize as American heroes, become American citizens.

I thank my colleagues again for their support.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5234) was read the third time and passed.

#### MOTHER TERESA RELIGIOUS WORKERS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 587, S. 2406.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2406) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for entry into the United States of certain religious workers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the